

Briefing Document: The Fall of the World Lesson 9

April 26, 2026

Executive Summary

The following document analyzes the geopolitical and spiritual shifts occurring during the biblical period known as the Tribulation. Central to this period is the collapse of a global "mystery religion," which is replaced by a political system led by the Antichrist. This system is characterized by a "Satanic Trinity" that mimics the Holy Trinity to deceive the world. Geographically, the focus of global conflict returns to Israel, specifically the Valley of Megiddo. The document identifies four major global powers, with particular emphasis on a "Northern Power" identified as modern-day Russia, which will lead a confederacy against Israel during a time of false peace. Ultimately, these events culminate in the return of Jesus Christ, the defeat of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and the establishment of an eternal kingdom.

Spiritual Deception and the Satanic Trinity

During the Tribulation, a false religious system will rise, only to be destroyed by the Antichrist's political system. The Antichrist uses his government to eliminate this religion, eventually inserting himself as the sole object of worship.

To facilitate this deception, Satan employs a counterfeit version of the Holy Trinity. This "Satanic Trinity" consists of three entities:

Holy Trinity Satanic Trinity Entity Description

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| God the Father | The Dragon | Satan, the ultimate source of the deception. |
| Jesus Christ | The Beast | The Antichrist, the political leader and counterfeit savior. |
| The Holy Spirit | The Other Beast | The False Prophet, who works signs to deceive the world. |

This system seeks to validate itself through signs and wonders. As noted in the scriptures, those who are deceived by these signs and worship the image of the beast face a final judgment. *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone* (Revelation 19:20).

The State of the Departed

There is a distinction between the current state of those who have died and their final destination.

Believers

When a believer dies, their soul goes to heaven immediately, but they are not yet in their final condition. They await the reception of a glorified body upon the return of Christ.

The Lost

Those who die without faith enter a "waiting place" often referred to as Hades. This is a place of damnation but is not the final state of punishment. These individuals must eventually receive "special bodies" capable of withstanding the eternal conditions of the Lake of Fire following the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Alignment of Nations

The Bible describes a massive realignment of global powers during the Tribulation. These powers are designated by their geographical relationship to Israel, which remains the center of biblical history.

- **The West:** Represented by the revived Roman Empire, a ten-nation confederacy often symbolized by the "ten toes" and "ten horns" in the prophecies of Daniel.
- **The North:** A great army that challenges the power of the revived Roman Empire.
- **The South:** A power located to the south of Israel.
- **The East:** A power from the east that eventually invades the region.

The Valley of Harmageddon¹

The convergence of these powers leads to a conflict in the Jezreel Valley, specifically at a site known as Megiddo. The name means "place of troops." Historically, Megiddo has been a strategic military site and a fortress for various rulers, including King Ahaziah, who *fled to Megiddo and died there* (2 Kings 9:27). This location serves as the "dress rehearsal" for the final battle of the age.

The Rise of the Northern Power

A significant portion of end-times prophecy focuses on the "army from the north." Historical and linguistic evidence suggests this power is the nation of Russia.

Geographical Evidence

Ezekiel 38 emphasizes that this enemy comes from the "uttermost north" or the "far north" in relation to Israel. Russia is the only major world power that fits this geographical description. Despite being decimated after World War II, Russia's rapid rise to global prominence and possession of nuclear weapons aligns with the description of a "mighty army."

Linguistic and Biblical Evidence

In Ezekiel 38:2, the leader of this northern land is called "the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal." Many scholars link the word "Rosh" to the modern name "Russia." The people of this region are descendants of Magog, whom the historian Josephus identified as the Scythians—a people who migrated far north toward the Arctic Circle.

The Confederacy of the North

The Northern Power will not act alone. According to Ezekiel 38:5-6, several allies will join this invasion:

- **Persia:** Modern-day Iran.
 - **Ethiopia (Kush):** States in Africa.
 - **Libya (Put):** Northern African nations.
 - **Gomer:** Ancient name for Germany.
 - **Togarmah:** Southern Russia and the Armenian regions.
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The Timing of the Conflict

The Northern invasion is triggered by the conditions in Israel during the first half of the Tribulation. During this time, the Antichrist makes a seven-year covenant with Israel, providing a false sense of security. *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another* (Galatians 5:13).

Ezekiel describes Israel during this period as a land of "unwalled villages" where people "dwell safely."

- *"On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army"* (Ezekiel 38:14-15).
- *"I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel"* (Ezekiel 39:2).

The invasion occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation, effectively "blowing the lid off" the period of false peace and leading to the return of Christ.

Greek Terminology and Definitions

| Word | Phonetic Pronunciation | Definition |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Harmageddon | har-muh-GED- uhn | A Greek transliteration of the Hebrew "Har Megiddo" (Mount Megiddo); the site of the final battle between God and the forces of evil. |

¹ See the table in the "Greek Terminology and Definitions" section for pronunciation and meaning.